



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/591,749	09/06/2006	Masafumi Hashimoto	SPL-06-1222	3421
35811	7590	07/14/2009	EXAMINER	
IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US)			JACKSON, MONIQUE R	
ONE LIBERTY PLACE				
1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			1794	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/14/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

pto.phil@dlapiper.com

Continuation of Item No. 11. NOTE: The Applicant's arguments filed 6/24/09 have been considered but are not persuasive with respect to the obviousness rejections over Okamura or Shigeta. The Examiner maintains that the claimed i- and a-biphenyl tetracarboxylic dianhydrides are known functionally equivalent dianhydrides utilized in the art to s-biphenyl tetracarboxylic dianhydrides (as evidenced by EP 0 538 075, see page 6) and hence substitution of either in place of the disclosed dianhydride in Okamura or Shigeta would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention given the reasonable expectation of success.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monique R. Jackson whose telephone number is 571-272-1508. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays, 10:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Callie Shosho can be reached on 571-272-1123. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Monique R Jackson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794